

# Big “Regional” News In The Capital Region Business Community!

by **Pete Bardunias**  
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**F**or the past nine years it has been my privilege to share stories with you from the perspective of a transplanted downstate boater turned upstate business executive. The articles will continue, but now from an even broader perspective. My employer, the 1000-member Chamber of Southern Saratoga County, has decided to affiliate with the Capital Region Chamber, itself a conglomeration of two county organizations (Albany and Schenectady) effective at the beginning of this year. The Malta Business and Professional Association has joined us as well, creating a 2900-member chamber of commerce that is the largest, most diverse and most effective advocate for and promoter of business in the state!

I am proud to assume the role of Senior Vice President, Community Advancement at the Capital Region Chamber, reporting to Mark N. Eagan, its President/CEO. Mark is an

experienced leader, having run chambers in Foxboro, MA and South Bend, IN before coming to the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber over a decade ago. Mark’s vision, along with that of the late Charles P. “Chuck” Steiner, created the Capital Region Chamber and began the process of coordinating and integrating the various associated business groups.

The Capital Region Chamber has 27 staff members (including the part time staff at the Southern Saratoga Information Center at the Clifton Park Rest Area on the I-87 Northway at Exit 9) located in three offices (Albany, Schenectady and Clifton Park). Businesses from all over the state are getting connected with this powerful organization, to build relationships with businesses throughout the four-county region, to promote themselves to the traveling public and to take advantage of the Regional Chamber’s strong advocacy, business growth and workforce development prowess.

For more information on the Capital Region Chamber and its programs, please visit [www.capitalregionchamber.com](http://www.capitalregionchamber.com)

*right top:* The full time staff of the Capital Region Chamber got together last fall, after the affiliation was announced, to celebrate with some Halloween fun. As you can see, the employees demonstrate a lot of creativity!

*right bottom:* Capital Region Chamber (CRC) President/CEO Mark Eagan (3rd from left) shakes hands with Chamber of Southern Saratoga County (CSSC) President/CEO Pete Bardunias as the results of a membership vote showed an overwhelming acceptance of the proposal to affiliate both chambers. Also pictured (L-R) are 2020 CRC Chair (and 2013 CSSC Chair Paul Milton of Ellis Medicine, 2019 CRC Chair Richard Sleasman of CBRE-Albany, 2019 CSSC Chair Matt Grattan of the University at Albany, and Clifton Park Town Supervisor and 2019 Saratoga County Economic Development Chairman Phil Barrett

*below:* The Capital Region Chamber’s holiday mixer was held at the Desmond Hotel Albany ([www.desmondhotelsalbany.com](http://www.desmondhotelsalbany.com), (800) 448-3500 with representatives of hundreds of businesses large and small from throughout the Capital Region in attendance)

